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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FORMING THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTING SHEET, THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTING SHEET AND THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTING METHOD**

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CPC *B41C 1/06* (2013.01); *B41M 3/12* (2013.01); *B41M 5/0256* (2013.01); *B41M 5/03* (2013.01); *G03G 15/00* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC G03G 16/00; G03G 8/00; B41M 3/12; B41M 5/0256
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for forming a thermal transfer printing sheet, including (a) feeding a release sheet having a release surface; (b) transferring an image, which is to be thermally transferred and printed on a transfer medium, onto the release surface of the release sheet; (c) forming a thermoplastic resin pattern, which corresponds to the image as a transfer base material and which is to be colorless and transparent by heat and pressure, and transferring the thermoplastic resin pattern onto the release surface of the release sheet; and (d) fixing the image and the thermoplastic resin pattern onto the release surface of the release sheet in a film shape, through heat and pressure.

5 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets